

ABSTRACT

A method and a device for central supply control of products having long delivery times from their manufacturing site to the dealers, including a data network having at least one central data bank, each dealer being allocated a computer for making inquiries to the centrally managed data in the data bank, the inventories in the data bank being divided into at least two process steps, and the inventories being allocated to at least one of the individual importers and dealers, the individual allocated inventories being subdivided into free inventories, non-free inventories and inventories allocated to consumers, a search inquiry for a desired product may be initiated by a dealer and/or importer in the central data bank using the computer, the search extending to inventories which:

have not yet been allocated to a consumer (free and non-free inventories);

have not yet been allocated to a dealer (free inventories);

have been allocated to another dealer but can be acquired without negotiation (free inventories); and

have been allocated to another dealer but can be acquired only after negotiation with this dealer;

where the sequence of the search inquiry among the individual inventories may be made to depend on additional conditions which may be stipulated by the dealer and/or the device, and a product that has been located can be acquired for the dealer and transferred to his allocation.